



Wadsworth Glen

HEALTH CARE AND REHABILITATION CENTER

February 20, 2014

Written testimony of William Nelson, Administrator, Wadsworth Glen Health Care and Rehabilitation Center, Concerning:

S.B. No. 104 (RAISED) AN ACT PROVIDING FINANCIAL RELIEF TO NURSING HOMES FOR UNCOMPENSATED CARE.

Good afternoon Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie and to the members of the Human Services Committee. My name is William Nelson. I am Administrator at Wadsworth Glen Health Care and Rehabilitation Center in Middletown, Connecticut. Wadsworth Glen is a longstanding provider of nursing care in the community of Middletown serving 102 residents and employing 175 workers. I am here this afternoon to ask the Human Services Committee to ask for your support for S.B. No. 104 (RAISED) AN ACT PROVIDING FINANCIAL RELIEF TO NURSING HOMES FOR UNCOMPENSATED CARE. This bill is being advanced by the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF), of which our organization is a member.

This legislation is badly needed to address the persistent and worsening problem of excessive delays in the long term care Medicaid eligibility determination process at the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) for skilled nursing facilities. Connecticut skilled nursing facilities and their residents are harmed by excessive delays in the eligibility determination process. As Medicaid applicants residing in nursing facilities await final disposition of their requests for state help, Connecticut nursing homes are simultaneously providing uncompensated care for periods of time often exceeding federal standard of promptness rules. This bill addresses this situation by requiring advanced payments for the money owed by the state. The bill also addresses the fundamental unfairness of requiring nursing facilities to pay provider taxes, penalties, interest and fees for care provided to Medicaid applicants and recipients, when no payment is being received from Medicaid for providing care due to excessive delays.

Our nursing home is harmed by these excessive Medicaid eligibility and payment delays. Currently Wadsworth Glen has outstanding Medicaid receivables in the amount of \$97,232.00 for services already provided to state-assisted residents.

CAHCF applauds and encourages the DSS efforts to modernize its eligibility systems and for their commitment to hire badly-needed eligibility staff to address delays across the entire public and medical assistance spectrum. However, the state's initiatives are not yet providing relief, and we are concerned the situation may continue to worsen. Please pass this bill. Our nursing home needs your help.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

William Nelson, MHA, LNHA

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